

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-8 and 10-24 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 10 and 12-17 being the independent claims.

In the Office Action dated July 13, 2004, claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being allegedly unpatentable over Armitage, U.S. Patent No. 4,781,386 in view of Urban, U.S. Patent No. 2,993,697. Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Armitage in view of Newnam, U.S. Patent No. 5,636,845. Claims 1-8 and 10-13 are allowed.

***Allowed claims 1-8 and 10-13***

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of claims 1-8 and 10-13.

***The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)***

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the reasoning expressed in the Office Action, claims 14-16 are amended to recite the aspect of the locking nut having an internal surface angled to force the blades together at the cutting tip. Support for the language of the amendment may be found, for example, in FIG. 7B, element 601. Since none of the cited references, singly or in combination, disclose this aspect, claims 14-16 are allowable over any combination of the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

***New Claims 17-24***

New claims 17-24 are added, which are also directed to the aspect of the locking nut having an internal surface angled to force the blades together at the cutting tip. These claims are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above, as well as due to the features recited therein.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



George S. Bardmesser  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 44,020

Date: 8/11/04  
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

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